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133 there rose up in the first days of the Iberian patriarch kings Mtkvaris-tzikhé or Khunani [1] at the confluence of the Débéda with the Mtkvari; Gachiani and Arkvani [2] below the great ravine of the Khrami; and, higher up the river, Orbeti or Samshwildé,[3] the patrimony of the celebrated family of Orbeliani.

172 [161] It was only along the middle valley of the Mtkvari from Tashis-kari,[4] "the rock-gate", along to the confluence of the Aragvi, that Iberia equalled the Rioni basin in density of population. In contrast to the sparsely peopled mountains all around, the wide stretch of the middle Mtkvari teemed with towns and villages. Here were the oldest towns of the eastern country. Zanavi, near Tashis-kari, "where the Jews lived", caught the caravans as they emerged from the mountains. Lower down the river was Urbnisi, or *Uriat Ubani*, "the Jew's town", where St. Nino, the Evangelist, found welcome owing to her familiarity with Hebrew.[5] Farther east, below the junction of the Liakhvi with the Mtkvari was Uplistzikhé which we have described; and below the point where the small river of Rekhula falls into the Mtkvari, was the old site of Kaspi, a great town once where now only an inconsidered village bears the pregnant name. At the place where the Aragvi joins the Mtkvari was the city of Mtzkheta, and on the southern bank of the Mtkvari, in the loop of the river within a triangle formed by the small stream of Kartlis-khevi was the city of Kartli or Armazi. These two places were the most important sites in ancient Iberia. The Georgian Annalists and Wakhushti—writing in the eighteenth century—were aware of this ancient fame, but, as in the case of Caspi and Nakalakevi, no substantial attempt has ever been made to explore them by excavation and to arrive at an appreciation of the extent to which civilized life was developed there. The name of the three sites—Caspi, Kartli and Mtzkheta—imply their foundation by the tribes who settled in Georgia after the

[1] Wakhushti, p. 169.
[2] *Idem*, p. 145.
[3] *Idem*, p. 167; cf. also *Sbor. Mat.*, XIII, i, pp. 3–13, S. Majnikov, *Pamyatniki drevnosti goroda Samshvilde*.
[4] The name is a Turko-Georgian combination. It is applied in the Annals to the head or the whole of the Mtkvari defile, now generally called "the defile of Borjomi" after the town of that name. Cf. Brosset, *H. de la G.*, II, 22 and note.
[5] See Brosset, *V.A.*, 6e Rapp., p. 19. The Georgian Annals record a curious tradition as to the settlement of the Jews in Georgia; that after the taking of Jerusalem by Vespasian, Jewish fugitives came from there to Mtzkheta and established themselves with their compatriots who had settled there formerly. Among the fugitives was the son of Barabbas. For an account of Urbnissi, Uplistzikhe and of Gori—a town whose foundation dates only from the eleventh century—see *Sbor. Mat.* I, Part I, pp. 59–108; Javakhishvili, *Gorod Gori*; also XXXIV, i, pp. 163–200, M. G. Janashvili, *Gori i ego okrestnosti*.

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[Medieval Georgia]

567 emigration from countries which, although rich enough to support a thriving population, were so disorganized by existing political conditions that life had become in fact intolerable for the lower social elements. The miserable Georgian boy dragged away from the sordid poverty of his father's feudal holding, found his way, through the Turkish slave-market, into the Janissary corps—where at least the life of a soldier, and not of a slave, awaited him. The highest posts in the Turkish and Persian Empires were filled many times by the unfortunate deportees, and the Mamluk corps, for so long the masters of Egypt, was recruited from the Black Sea slavers. Again, wretched girls from the mountains, whose future at home would have been to have been sold by a peasant father to a peasant husband for the price of a few sheep, was passed on from the slave-ships to the comparative comfort, and sometimes to the luxury of Muslim harims, where they would find, more often than not, a husband more kindly and more desirable than their own bucolic kinsfolk.

The effect on the ethnography of the Middle East of this forcible and widespread emigration from the Caucasus, which came to a head in the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, is an interesting question which has not attracted the attention it
● 161 deserves. The population of the Caucasus in the time of Queen Tamara must have been very great indeed, and the inhabitants per square mile would appear to have been more numerous than in England and Scotland at the same period. England and Scotland were then backward countries in North-Western Europe,[1] whereas the Caucasus was one of the most prosperous regions of the Middle East. The evidence of ruins of castles and monasteries all over Georgia and Armenia tell their story of a numerous and prosperous population, much greater in numbers than during recent generations. The towns of the Mussulman provinces in the eastern Caucasus —Barda'a, Baylakan, Derbend and Shamakha, Ganja and Dabil—were famous throughout the Mussulman countries, which were then the richest regions of the world.

The Mongol census of 1259—after forty years of war—gives figures which are credible for that period, and which can only indicate those of the prosperous days of the Georgian Kingdom and of the Mussulman emirates. The census carried out by the No'in Arghun—an experienced administrator who had as object the levying of troops and the adjust-

[1] The passing power of Henry II and of the Angevin dynasty rested mainly on the spreading continental possessions of that house.

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[Medieval Georgia]

ment of taxes—gave the population of Georgia, according to the Annalists, at 4,500,000, and according to Wakhushti at 5,900,000. The different figures are founded on different bases of reckoning, and it is doubtful whether the whole of Georgia or only Kartli and Kakheti were included, although the evidence rather indicates the latter. Brosset, on the grounds that the population of Kartli and Kakheti in 1836 was, according to the Russian census, only 225,395, cannot bring himself to credit the Mongol census.[1] When we remember, however, that the Black Death and the devastations of Timur followed within 150 years of this census, and that the succeeding 400 years were occupied in almost perpetual warfare, accompanied by such terrible depredations as those of Shah Abbas, Nadir Shah, and Agha-Muhammad-Khan; and when we take into consideration further the evidence of Taymuraz I and of Sir John Chardin, as to the mass annual deportations resulting from the slave-trade, it does not seem difficult to believe that the figures of the Mongol census give no inaccurate indication of the population of Georgia in the thirteenth century.

The results of the dispersal of the Georgians and Circassians over the neighbouring Muhammadan countries were noted by the shrewd Chardin, who coming from Georgia to Persia, was probably observant in this matter.

> "In other parts of the Kingdom", he says, "the Persian blood is now grown clearer by the mixture of the Georgian and Circassian Blood, which is certainly the People of the World, which Nature favours most, both upon the account of the Shape and Complexion, and of the Boldness and Courage; they are likewise Sprightly, Courtly and Amorous. There is scarce a gentleman in Persia whose Mother is not a Georgian or a Circassian Woman; to begin with the King who commonly is a Georgian or a Circassian by the Mother's side; and whereas that Mixture begun about a hundred years ago, the Female kind is grown fairer as well as the other, and the Persian Women are

[1] Brosset, *H. de la G.*, I, 550–1, and notes; cf. also Elysée Reclus (*Universal Geography*, VI, 47), who, on slender evidence, estimates the population of the Caucasus in classic and mediæval times at sixteen millions. The population of Daghestan was reckoned by the Russians, at the time of the Murid War at about two millions, of Circassia at a million, even after the plague of the late 'twenties. Both these regions were relatively uncivilized, particularly by comparison with Georgia and the Mussulman parts of Transcaucasia during the Middle Ages. According to Tournefort (*Voyage*, p. 312) the population of Persian Georgia was estimated at 60,000 hearths at the beginning of the eighteenth century. He says (p. 319) that military service was levied as one man to a hearth, a reckoning which corresponds exactly with Krusinski's statement that Wakhtang VI raised an army of 60,000 men in 1719 (*History of the Revolutions of Persia*, I, 266–7). These figures compared with those of the Russian census of 1836, for exactly the same area, indicate a decline in population of at least one-third during the century which saw the invasion of Nadir Shah and Agha-Muhammad-Khan.

ETHNOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DIVISION OF GEORGIA

By A. GUGUSHVILI

131 GEORGIA lies between the two systems of the Caucasian Mountains—that of the Great Caucasus in the north and that of the Little Caucasus in the south. On the west she borders upon the Black Sea, between the River Pso in the north and the village of Sarp in the south (south-west of Batum); on the east she is bounded by the River Alazani and its junction with the Yori. On the east is Azerbaijan and on the south are Armenia and Turkey.

Within these boundaries Georgia occupies an area of 72,661 square *versts*, or 75,792 square kilometres, and she has a population of about 3,000,000.

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The territory of Georgia in the present-day political sense does not coincide with the territory which can be called Georgia in the national sense, for a considerable portion of the Georgian territory lies outside her present-day frontiers, such as the Zak'at'ala district in the east, the southern part of the Bortchalo district in the south, and Artvin, Ardahan, Ardanutch, and Olti in the south-west. Apart from these latter four districts which the Bolsheviks ceded to Turkey by the Treaty of Kars (March, 1921), the whole of the middle basin of the Dchorokh, known as *Klarjet'-T'ort'um-Ispiri*, and *Lazistan* along the Black Sea coast, inhabited by the Laz, a Georgian tribe, have now for a considerable time been under Turkey.

101 The country which is inhabited at present by the Georgians, and which has been their homeland for the last twenty-five to thirty centuries, is called in Georgian *Sak'art'velo* (Sa-k'art'-v-el-o). The name *Sak'art'velo* (Georgia) and *K'art'veli* (a Georgian) is derived from the name of *K'art'li* (K'art'-l-i), a principal province of Georgia and its inhabitants, the K'art'ians or K'art'lians, who gave their name to the whole country just as Schwyz gave its name to the whole of Switzerland.

[133] The Suram range or *Likhis-mt'a* (Mountains of Likhi), which connects the system of the Great Caucasus in the north with the system of the Little Caucasus in the south, divides Georgia into two principal parts—Western and Eastern, or, using the Georgian terminology, into *Imier* "that side" and *Amier* "this side" (of the Suram or Likhi range); Western and Eastern Georgia were therefore called also *Likht'-imieri* and *Likht'-amieri* Georgia, and the two parts of the country *Likht' Imereti* and *Likht' Amereti* respectively.

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1. GEORGIANS

C. G. 101 **NAME**: SELF-DESIGNATION: Kartveli, pl. Kartvelni. The name is applied to all the Kartvelian peoples (see below under "Language"); its derivate "Sakartvelo" denotes traditionally the Georgian state and political territory.

RUSSIAN DESIGNATION: Gruziny.

OTHER DESIGNATION: (Armenian:) Vratsi; (Turkish, Persian:) Gürdzhi; (Abkhaz:) Akyrtwa.

C. G. 161 **NUMBER**: 1897 1,097,000 (Russian census)
1926 1,564,333 (Russian census, ethn.)
1,610,458 (Russian census, ling.)
1939 2,248,566 (Russian census)

The 1939 figure includes the Mingrelians, Laz, and Svan. The Turkish census of 1945 lists 40,076 speakers of Georgian.

C. G. 162 **LOCATION**: Western and central part of the territory between the mountains of the Great and Little Caucasus, with the lower Alazani river as E border. Of this area are excepted (1) the territory NW of the lower Rioni and Tskhenis-Tskali (which is inhabited by Mingrelians, Svan, and Abkhaz) and (2) the part of the country SW of the lower Chorokh (which is Laz territory). On the other hand, the Georgians extend beyond the Little Caucasus in the SW, where they live in the basins of the upper Kura and Araks. Politically, the main mass lives in the Georgian SSR, extending into the

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2. MINGRELIANS

C. G. 101 **NAME: SELF-DESIGNATION:** Margali; own name of country: Odishi.
RUSSIAN DESIGNATIONS: Megrely, Megrel'tsy, Mingrel'tsy.
OTHER DESIGNATIONS: (Georgian:) Megreli, the country: Samegrelo; (Abkhaz:) Aghrwa; (Svan:) Myzan, the country: Zan

C. G. 161 **NUMBER:**

1897	239,625	(Russian census)
1926	242,990	(Russian census, ethn.)
	284,834	(Russian census, ling.)

C. G. 162 **LOCATION:** Territory N of lower Rioni river and W of the Tskhenis-Tskali, extending along the Black Sea Coast from the mouth of the Rioni up to Ochemchiri (rayons Zugdidi and Senaki in W of Georgian SSR). Also in and around the cities of the Abkhaz ASSR.

C. G. 197 **LANGUAGE:** Mingrelian (Megreli nina) and the very closely related Laz form the so-called Zan member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language group, which also includes Georgian and Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS: Two groups of dialects, which differ very little: West (Samurzakan-Zugdidi) and East Mingrelian (Senaki).

C. G. 241 **TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:** Agriculture; horticulture; viniculture; sericulture.

C. G. 795 **RELIGION:** Eastern Orthodox.

3. LAZ

C. G. 101 **NAME:** SELF-DESIGNATION: Lazi
RUSSIAN DESIGNATIONS: Lazy; for the language also: Chanskii iazyk.
OTHER DESIGNATIONS: (Turkish:) Lazi; (Georgian:) Ch'ani, the country: Ch'aneti.

C. G. 161 **NUMBER:** 1926 643 (Russian census, ethn.)
730 (Russian census, ling.)
The Turkish census of 1945 lists 46,987 speakers of Laz, so that the overwhelming majority of them live in Turkish territory.

C. G. 162 **LOCATION:** Between the Chorokh river and the Black Sea coast up to the area of Pazar (Atina) on Turkish territory; also in the Chkhala basin (left tributary of the Chorokh) on Russian territory), (Adzhar ASSR, within Georgian SSR).

C. G. 197 **LANGUAGE:** Laz (Ch'anuri nena) and the very closely related Mingrelian form the so-called Zan member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language-group, which includes also Georgian and Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as literary language in the USSR, Turkish in Turkey.

SUBDIVISIONS: Two dialect-groups: West (Vitse-Arkhava and Atina) and East Laz (Hopa, Chkhala).

C. G. 241 226 **TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:** Agriculture, fishing, trade.

C. G. 795 **RELIGION:** Islam (Sunni)

4. SVAN

C. G. 101 NAME: SELF-DESIGNATION: Shwan, sing. Mushwän, Mushwni.

ENGLISH VARIANTS: Svan, Svanetians

RUSSIAN DESIGNATIONS: Svany, Svanety.

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: (Georgian:) Svani; the country: Svaneti

C. G. 161 NUMBER: 1897 15,756 (Russian census)
1926 13,218 (Russian census, ethn.)
13,142 (Russian census, ling.)

The 1926 numbers are very low and must be due to some misunderstanding. The Bol'shaia Sovetskaia Entsiklopediia (1st ed.) Vol. 50 (1944), p. 371, gives the number of the Svan as over 23,000.

C. G. 162 LOCATION: Two valleys S of Mt. El'brus, one of the upper Tskhenis-Tskali and its tributary the Kheledula (Sv. of the Dadiani), the other of the upper Ingur (West: Sv. of the Dadishkeliani, East: Free Sv.) Georgian SSR)

C. G. 199 LANGUAGE: The Svan language is a member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language-family, to which belong further Migrelo-Laz (Zan), and Georgian, the latter languages forming one group as against Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as the literary language.

C G 631 SUBDIVISIONS: Historically, Svanetia fell into three parts, Svanetia of the Dadiani, Svanetia of the Dadishkeliani, Free Svanetia.

5. ABKHAZ

C. G. 101 NAME: SELF-DESIGNATION: Aàpswa.

ENGLISH VARIANTS: Abkhaz(ians); for the tribes N of the Cauc. ridge: Abazinians.

RUSSIAN DESIGNATIONS: Abkhazy, Abkhaztsy; for the tribes N of the Cauc. ridge; Abazintsy, Beshkesek-Abaza.

OTHER DESIGNATIONS: (Georgian:) Apkhazi; (Svan:) Mibkhaz; (Turkish:) Abaza.

C. G. ●161 NUMBER: 1897 72,103 (Russian census)
1926 56,957 (Russian census, ethn.)
48,130 (Russian census, ling.)
1939 58,969 (Russian census)

These numbers do not include the Abaza on Russian territory (see below under "Subdivisions"), whose number was in 1926: 13,825 (ethn.), 13,057 (ling.) (Russian census). The Turkish census of 1945 lists 8,602 speakers of "Abaza" (i.e. Abkhaz).

C. G. 162 LOCATION: Black Sea coast S of the main Cauc. chain between the rivers Psou and Ingur (Abkhaz ASSR, within Georgian SSR). The Bzyb'-Abkhaz live around the river Bzyb', the Abzhui-Abkhaz around the river Kodor, the Samurzakan'-Abkhaz in the SE, bordering on Mingrelia. The Abaza tribes live in 15 villages N of the Cauc. chain at the sources of the rivers Kuban' and Zelenchuk (Cherkes AO, within RSFSR).